

Clark Lauds Fulbright For Pentagon Memo

Urges Keeping Military 'On Tap, Not On Top';
Thurmond Again Criticizes Policy

By GERALD GRIFFIN
(Washington Bureau of The Sun)

Washington, Aug. 11—Senator Clark (D., Pa.) said today that "we should keep our military, like all other experts, on tap and not on top."

Clark made this remark in praising President Kennedy for giving his backing to Senator Fulbright (D., Ark.), who is under steady attack from a group of conservative senators because of a memorandum suggesting that military officers should be restrained from making public speeches on nonmilitary matters.

But Senator Thurmond (D., S.C.), one of the senators who have been criticizing Fulbright, took issue with the position of the President as well as of the Arkansas Senator.

Tradition, Practice Cited

Fulbright said he is trying to preserve the principle under which officers in the regular military establishment have been kept out of politics, by long tradition and practice in this country.

The President, commending Fulbright during his news conference yesterday, said further that he does not want to have military leaders exploited for political purposes.

Thurmond entered an objection

to the President's remarks late yesterday. He said that there is no evidence that military leaders are being exploited and he added that the issue is not a conflict between civilian and military control of policy.

"Smear Campaign" Charged

Speaking in the Senate today, Thurmond made no direct reference to the President's new conference statement but said that a "smear campaign" is being conducted to muzzle officers and thus to prevent them from alerting the public to the internal dangers of communism.

Thurmond asserted that the campaign apparently began with an article in a Communist newspaper. He said further:

"I am convinced from the facts which have come to my attention that this campaign to intimidate our military leaders and to prevent them from participating in patriotic efforts to alert the American people to the total menace of communism is a part of an over-all anti-anti-Communist effort originating with the Communist party, U.S.A., in which they have the enthusiastic cooperation of the Marxist Socialists in

our country and many others who willingly or unwittingly cooperate and advance the purpose and goals of the Marxist-Socialist-Communists."

"Clear Danger" Fought

Thurmond said the campaign presents a "clear and present danger to our national security which cannot and must not be allowed to continue."

Clark took a different view. Praising Fulbright and expressing regret for the criticism being aimed at him by some senators, Clark said:

"The memorandum which he sent to the Department of Defense in my judgment is a state paper worthy of careful study by all Americans determined to keep elected civilian leaders in charge of our policy rather than turning it over to the military. I am most happy that the President of the United States undertook at his press conference to support the Senator from Arkansas."

Clark went on to say that Mr. Kennedy "points out what I am sure we all agree with, that nobody desires to restrain or prevent any military man from speaking his mind but what we are concerned about is that they should not be exploited for partisan purposes."

Fulbright's memorandum to the Defense Department, which the President said was requested by the Defense Secretary, Robert S. McNamara, called attention to a series of "cold war seminars" around the country in which some military officers have been taking part.

Fulbright found that the speakers and the seminars were expressing the "radical Right-wing" viewpoint and went so far as to criticize, either directly or indirectly, much of the Kennedy Administration's legislative program.

Last month the Defense Department issued a directive intended to restrict political talks by military personnel and to limit so far as their public speeches are

Since then Thurmond, Goldwater (R., Ariz.), Mundt (R., S.D.) and other conservative senators have been criticizing the Defense Department's action as well as Fulbright's memorandum.

President Kennedy said he thinks Fulbright performed a service in sending his viewpoint to the Defense Department. Mr. Kennedy said one of the wisest actions of the writers of the Constitution was to keep the military out of politics.

The military's responsibilities thus continue regardless of changes of political Administrations, the President noted. He said this is a most important protection for the country and an equally important protection for the military.